

The Benefits of Public/Private Partnerships

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Biographical Sketch of Author

Ginger first joined the Delaware Nature Society as a Naturalist for the Education Department at Ashland in 1992 and taught a variety of programs for them. She has worked with the Delaware Stream Watch program in the Natural Resource Conservation department since 1995, first as the Technical Monitoring Assistant, then as Stream Watch Assistant Coordinator, and most recently as the Stream Watch Coordinator.

She received a Master of Science degree in Genetics from the University of Delaware, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Marine Biology from the University of Long Island. She taught biology laboratories for four years at the University of Delaware. She also has an extensive background in Quality Control, both in a clinical microbiology laboratory and in a hospital endocrinology laboratory.

Abstract

What are the benefits of public/private partnerships? Delaware Stream Watch is a grassroots volunteer waterway protection program focusing on citizen monitoring, education, and advocacy. Founded in 1985 as a partnership between the Delaware Nature Society and the Division of Water Resources of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), it is one of the oldest statewide volunteer water quality monitoring programs in the nation, and one of the few joint efforts between a state agency and a non-profit environmental organization. Delaware Stream Watch has two main components, which fulfill different needs for each partner. The Stream Adoption program provides public education on the importance of water resource protection, while the State provides a large part of the funding. The other component of Delaware Stream Watch is the Technical Monitoring program. It differs from Stream Adoption in the assignment of strategic monitoring sites, a fixed sampling schedule, additional physical/chemical tests, and more rigorous procedures to ensure quality control in sampling techniques. Monitoring locations are selected in consultation with the Division of Water Resources in order to provide the Division with supplemental baseline data, particularly in some smaller sub-watersheds. This presentation will discuss the mutual benefits of this partnership.